Renaming of CBEC

698. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to change the name of the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) to the Central Board of Indirect Taxes, as the organisation is overseeing the execution of almost all indirect tax laws; and

(b) whether Government are considering to release one more post of Member in the CBEC exclusively for looking after the Service Tax administration; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No additional post of Member in the CBEC is being created for exclusively looking after the Service Tax administration as there is no functional justification for its creation.

Non-Declaration of IRS officers as proper officers

699. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons why the officers of Central Excise, customs, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence are not being declared by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, as proper officers under the Wild Life Protection Act (1972), as it may greatly assist in the efforts of wildlife conservation; and

(b) whether there is any such proposal for necessary action before Government at present and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The officers of Central Excise, Customs, Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence and Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence are empowered under the Customs Act, 1962 to take action in the matter of illegal export and import of wildlife and its derivatives. There is no proposal under the consideration of the Central Government for empowering the officers of the above organisations under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.